

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 459

By Rinks

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Tommy and Mary Bryson upon being named the 2006 Tree Farmers of the Year by the Tennessee Forestry Association.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially recognize those outstanding citizens of our state who have committed themselves to sustaining the renewable natural resources of Tennessee in a manner that provides economic enrichment while preserving valuable resources and biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, two such dedicated conservationists are Tommy and Mary Bryson, owners of the Bryson Tree Farm in northwest Hardin County; and

WHEREAS, when Mary inherited the 92-acre family farm from her father in 1989, the Brysons, who were both heavily involved in their Memphis community, began to appreciate the value of land maintained in a forested condition and decided that, rather than immediately sell the land, they would retain the property looking forward to the day when retirement would allow them to spend time on the farm; and

WHEREAS, with Tommy having retired from carpentry work several years ago, the Brysons now devote a large portion of their time toward their goal of improving the productivity of the forestland and enhancing and protecting the other resources present; and

WHEREAS, their interest in forestry intensified in the late 90's and early 2000, when the southern pine beetle swept through west Tennessee and prompted the first timber sale, by necessity, in October of 2000; and

WHEREAS, realizing they needed professional help, the Brysons contacted the Tennessee Division of Forestry, industry foresters, and the UT Agricultural Extension Service; they soon became convinced of the benefits of sound forest management; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, the Brysons decided to convert all of their old agricultural and pasture land to pine plantation; after the pines were planted by machine, the Brysons mowed around the trees, sprayed for weeds, and fertilized; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, they attended a Shelby County Forestry Association meeting, where they heard about the Tree Farm Program; the Brysons have complied with the forest management plan ever since; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with their interest in tree farming and sustainable forestry management, the Brysons included recreation and water quality enhancements throughout their management activities, as well as wildlife considerations, ranging from food plots to creating openings for wildlife and habitat concerns; and

WHEREAS, keeping their land beautiful and healthy, Mr. and Mrs. Bryson selectively harvested marked timber in 2003, to improve the health of a stand of large oak and poplar trees, developing a system of roads, trails, and log landings; and

WHEREAS, in addition to their hands-on management, the Brysons frequently promote good forest management to other private landowners; they are active and respected members of the Shelby, McNairy, and Hardin County Forestry Associations, as well as the Tennessee Forestry Association; and

WHEREAS, Tommy and Mary Bryson are the fitting recipients of Tennessee's 2006 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year award, and it is appropriate that this General Assembly pause in its deliberations to honor this outstanding couple; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate Tommy and Mary Bryson upon being named the 2006 Tree Farmers of the Year by the Tennessee Forestry Association and thank them for their dedicated and thorough understanding of our State's precious renewable resources -- our forestland and wildlife habitat.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend to the Bryson family our best wishes for every success and happiness in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.